From: Maria Martinez
To: R6_DWH_Info@epa.gov
Subject: Fw: Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA
Date: 05/31/2010 12:49 PM

Maria L. Martinez
Chief, Air Quality Analysis Section (PD-Q)
USEPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
Telephone: 214-665-2230
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----- Forwarded by Maria Martinez/R6/USEPA/US on 05/31/2010 12:49 PM -----

Re: Fw: Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA Link

Maria Martinez to: Carl Edlund, Sam Coleman, Mark Hansen, Paige Delgado, Richard Mayer, John Martin, Jon Rauscher, Donald Williams
05/10/2010 05:20 PM

To All:

•

This is what we know

- We are evaluating the data to see if we can determine whether the levels are associated with the oil spill or other potential sources.
- H2S is naturally produced by swamps, rotting vegetation as well as sewage treatment facilities, oil and gas production, refineries
- Concentrations reported by Region 6 for hydrogen sulfide were generated by field screening methods with a detection level (1 ppm) which is above the screening level being used by OAR (0.51 ppm).
- The variability of the data may be an artifact of the measurement technique [a field portable type of instrument] ..this is another area that we are examining.
- Levels of concern: the odor threshold value for H2S is between 0.0005 ppm and 0.010 ppm. It has a noxious odor [rotten eggs] which may make some people nauseous at low levels. At higher levels H2S can be toxic, NIOSH Recommended Exposure Level is 10 ppm for an 8 hour sampling period.

Maria

From: Carl Edlund/R6/USEPA/US
To: Maria Martinez/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 05/10/2010 04:47 PM
Subject: Fw: Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA

----- Forwarded by Carl Edlund/R6/USEPA/US on 05/10/2010 04:52 PM -----

Fw: Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA

Sam Coleman to: Carl Edlund 05/10/2010 03:44 PM

Can you answer?

Samuel Coleman, PE
Superfund Div Region 6
214.665.6701 Ofc
214.789.2016 Cell

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Lawrence Starfield
Sent: 05/10/2010 04:39 PM EDT
To: Mark Hansen
Cc: "Sam Coleman" <coleman.sam@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA

Can someone get me a reaction to this hydrogen sulfide data?

1. Is it likely from the spill (or other sources)?

2. Are these levels of concern?

Larry
Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Paul Orr [paul@lmrk.org]
Sent: 05/10/2010 01:21 PM AST
To: Lawrence Starfield
Subject: Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA

Louisiana Environmental Action Network
&
Lower Mississippi RIVERKEEPER©

Helping to Make Louisiana Safe for Future Generations

E-ALERT May 10, 2010

Evaluation of EPA Air Monitoring Results from Venice, LA for the period of April 28, 2010 - May 7, 2010

by Wilma Subra

Hydrogen Sulfide

Odor Threshold for Hydrogen Sulfide: 0.5 ppb
Physical Reaction Symptoms: 5 to 10 ppb

Acute Physical Health Symptoms:
Irritates eyes
Irritates nose, throat and lungs
Nausea, dizziness, confusion, headache

Venice Hydrogen Sulfide Air Monitoring Results for the period of April 28, 2010 - May 7, 2010

Date:	Hydrogen Sulfide (parts per billion):
April 28	None Detected
April 29	No Data
April 30	No Data
May 1	No Data
May 2	30 ppb
May 3	1,192 ppb
May 4	46 ppb
May 5	1,010 ppb
May 6	1,000 ppb
May 7	280 ppb

The results of the Hydrogen Sulfide air monitoring in Venice indicates that the concentration from May 2 through May 7 exceeded the odor threshold and Physical Health Symptom concentrations. The Hydrogen Sulfide concentrations on May 3, 5 & 6 exceeded the Physical Reaction Symptoms concentrations by a factor of 100 to 120 times. The Physical Reaction Symptoms have been reported by individuals living and visiting in Venice.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

Louisiana Ambient Air Standards for Volatile Organic Chemicals:

The Louisiana Ambient Air Standards for the most toxic Volatile Organic Chemicals range from 0.25 ppb to 3.76 ppb Annual Average.

- 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane 0.25 ppb
- Benzene 3.76 ppb

The Ambient Air Standards for the remaining Volatile Organic Chemicals range from 5.49 to 61.25 ppb Annual Average.

- 1 and 2-nitropropane 5.49 ppb
- Methylene Chloride 61.25 ppb

Acute Physical Health Symptoms:
Irritation of eyes, skin, skin rashes
Irritate nose, throat and lungs
Headaches
Dizziness, light headed
Weakness
Nausea
Confusion

Venice Volatile Organic Chemicals Air Monitoring Results for the period of April 28, 2010 - May 7, 2010

Date:	Hydrogen Sulfide (parts per billion):
April 28	None Detected
April 29	None Detected
April 30	3,084 ppb
May 1	923 ppb
May 2	3,416 ppb
May 3	780 ppb
May 4	1,243 ppb
May 5	37 ppb
May 6	483 ppb
May 7	None Detected

The results of the Volatile Organic Chemicals air monitoring indicates that the concentrations from April 30 through May 6 may have exceeded the Louisiana

Ambient Air Standards for specific species of Volatile Organic Chemicals. The Volatile Organic Chemical concentrations on April 30 and May 2 may have exceeded the highest concentration of Annual Average Standard by as much 50 times. Specific chemicals that make up the total Volatile Organic Chemical concentrations are needed to further evaluate the results. This information has been requested from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Acute Physical Symptoms associated with the Volatile Organic Chemicals have been reported by individuals living and visiting in Venice.

Support this vital work today!

Yes! I want to help make Louisiana safe for us and for future generations!

LEAN is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) is a non-profit organization working to foster communication and cooperation among citizens and groups to address Louisiana's environmental problems.

For More About LEAN:

WWW.LEANWEB.ORG

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